CLAIMS

1. A use of a synthetic oligosaccharide which is a selective inhibitor of factor Xa, acting via antithrombin III, for the manufacture of a medicament for preventing blood clotting in patients with an extracorporeal blood circuit.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide is the pentasaccharide methyl O-(2-deoxy-2-sulphoamino-6-O-sulpho-α-D-glucopyranosyl)-(1→4)-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl uronic acid)-(1→4)-O-(2-deoxy-2-sulphoamino-3,6-di-O-sulpho-α-D-glucopyranosyl)-(1→4)-O-(2-O-sulpho-α-L-idopyranosyl uronic acid)-(1→4)-2-deoxy-2-sulphoamino-6-O-sulpho-α-D-glucopyranoside or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the pentasaccharide is in the form of its decasodium salt.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the extracorporeal blood circuit is of haemodialysis patients.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the medicament is suitable for intravenous administration.

6. The use according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the medicament is adapted for use as an anticoagulant coating.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the medicament is in a unit dosage form.

8. A method of preventing blood clotting in a mammal undergoing a treatment in which an extracorporeal blood circuit is used, comprising the administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the oligosaccharide as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A method of preventing blood clotting in an extracorporeal blood circuit, comprising furnishing components of the circuit with a therapeutically effective amount of the oligosaccharide as defined in claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5

10. A pharmaceutical composition adapted for preventing blood clotting in an extracorporeal blood circuit comprising the oligosaccharide as defined in claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliaries.